



November 19, 2008

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Approval for Headquarters Employees with Senior Institutional or Project Responsibilities to Attend a Reception Sponsored by ATK

In accordance with 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:

Certain Headquarters employees with senior institutional or project responsibilities with regard to the Orion program, have been invited to attend a reception sponsored by ATK, on November 20, 2008, from 2-4 p.m. This event is to be held in conjunction with the test firing of NASA's Orion abort motor for its launch abort system (LAS) - live from ATK Space System's facilities in Promontory, Utah - via video link directly to ATK Washington Operations in Arlington, VA.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of aerospace industry representatives, members of Congress, NASA employees, and members of the Federal government. The sponsor has specifically valued the cost of the "light reception" to be under \$20 per person and approximately 80 individuals have been invited to attend. I find that the reception meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(2).

Some Headquarters personnel invited to attend this event presently, or may in the near future, have extensive involvement in matters relating to the sponsors' business interests.<sup>1</sup> These personnel are similarly situated in that they each have senior institutional or project responsibilities that could significantly influence current or future contracts.

I have determined that free attendance of these senior institutional and project leaders at the pre-launch reception is in the interests of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. The attendance of these senior NASA employees at the event

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<sup>1</sup> These personnel include the NASA Administrator, the Deputy Administrator, the Associate Administrator, the Deputy Associate Administrator of SOMD, the Associate Administrator for ESMD, the Deputy Associate Administrator for ESMD, and the Chief of the Safety and Mission Assurance Office.

will support NASA's statutory mandate to disseminate information about its programs, and ensure full and candid discussion about NASA missions.

Given the purpose of the event, NASA's interest in it, the broad attendance anticipated, and the modest market value of the event, I have determined that the value to the agency in having these senior institutional and project leaders attend this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence them in the performance of their duties.

Accordingly, NASA employees in the positions identified above may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam F. Greenstone', written in a cursive style.

Adam F. Greenstone